

SITUATION REPORT NO. 16
INCIDENT NO. 2002-007
DATE: March 28, 2002 TIME: 2:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Minot Train Derailment of January 18, 2002 – A large plume, resulting from the release of 300,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia, enveloped significant portions of the Minot area for several hours when a 112-car train derailed.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: One person was killed and approximately 1,605 people have sought treatment.
3. DAMAGES: No change from previous reports.
4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: N.D. Department of Health officials reported that monitoring of air quality continues at the train derailment site; test results to date indicate safe levels of ammonia.

Excavation of contaminated soil appears to be complete, according to Ward County officials. Approximately 75,000 tons of soil have been removed. The N.D. Department of Health is reviewing a reclamation plan that includes backfill work and assessment of remediation of ground water contamination.

Officials for the Ward County Sheriff's Department, First District Health Unit and Canadian Pacific Railway have been meeting with residents of the Tierricita Vallejo subdivision to discuss environmental and security issues. During a March 4 meeting, officials for the Sheriff's Department reported that deputies had recorded 1,200 hours of 24-hour patrol during a 38-day period.

As of March 13, a contracting firm for Canadian Pacific Railway had scheduled and completed 304 home air quality assessments.

The Ward County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was de-activated on March 19.

Approximately 150 people attended a "Moving Forward" town hall meeting on March 20 to discuss the results of an after-action report prepared by an emergency response consulting firm.

As of March 27, 10 families of the Tierricita Vallejo subdivision had returned to their homes. Cleaning and testing of 11 homes continues.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from the previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state, local and private entity emergency operations plans and procedures have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director